WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof.

2. A composition according to claim 1 further comprising about 0.1 to 10% by weight of an adjuvant and/or an excipient calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-ascorbic acid is sodium ascorbate.

4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pectin is a citrus pectin.

5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 5% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 2% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

7. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition consists of 95-99% by weight of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and 5-1% by weight of pectin.

8. A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, based on the total weight of the composition.

9. A compressed tablet according to claim 8 further comprising a lubricant or a mixture of lubricants.

10. A compressed tablet according to claim 9 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants are selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, a magnesium salt of stearic acid, a calcium salt of stearic acid, and glyceryl behenate 45 (Compritol 888 ATO).

11. A compressed tablet according to claim 9 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants is present in the tablet in an amount of about 0.5 to 4% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

12. A compressed tablet according to claim 8 further comprising an excipient.

13. A compressed tablet according to claim 12 wherein the excipient is selected from the group consisting of dextrinized sucrose (Di Pac Sugar), microcrystalline cellulose, and starch.

14. A process for preparing a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) preparing an aqueous slurry comprising L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of pectin; and

(b) spray drying the slurry to form the powder or granule.

15. A process according to claim 14 wherein the aqueous slurry has a solids content of about 10% to about 70% by weight.

16. A process according to claim 15 wherein the aqueous slurry has a solids content of about 25% to about 50% by weight.

17. A process for preparing a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) forming a fluidized bed containing fluidized particles of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof within a fluidized-bed drying device fitted with spray means, the fluidized bed being fluidized by air or an inert gas, and

(b) spraying an aqueous solution of pectin in the form of an atomized mist onto the fluidized particles to deposit the pectin onto the fluidized particles.

18. A process according to claim 17 wherein the composition contains about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of pectin.